

CLAIMS

1. A system (10) for providing data in a multiple dwelling facility (16), the system (10) comprising:

5 a headend unit (12) that receives a data stream that comprises a plurality of programs; and
a multiple dwelling unit network (14) that is adapted to receive at least a portion of the data stream from the headend unit (12) and provide at least a subset of the plurality of programs to individual users in
10 the multiple dwelling facility (16).

2. The system (10) set forth in claim 1, wherein the headend unit (12) is adapted to offer at least one of the plurality of programs to individual users in the multiple dwelling facility (16) at either a first price or a second price.

15 3. The system (10) set forth in claim 1, wherein the multiple dwelling unit network (14) comprises a switch (36) that distributes the at least a subset of the plurality of programs to users in individual dwelling units within the multiple dwelling facility (16).

20 4. The system (10) set forth in claim 1, wherein the multiple dwelling unit network (14) comprises a set top box in each of the individual dwelling units within the multiple dwelling facility (16), each of the set top boxes being adapted to block a specific program or permit access to the specific program
25 depending on whether a user has met at least one predetermined condition.

5. The system (10) set forth in claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of programs comprises a premium video channel.

30 6. The system (10) set forth in claim 1, wherein at least one of the plurality of programs comprises a pay per view video program.

7. The system (10) set forth in claim 1, wherein the headend unit (12) is configured to interface with a billing system that is configured to create a billing record for each of a plurality of users in the multiple dwelling facility (16).

8. A method for providing access to data to individual users within a multiple dwelling facility (16), comprising the acts of:

5 receiving a data stream that comprises a plurality of programs;

distributing at least a portion of the data stream to a multiple dwelling unit network (14); and

providing access to a specific one of the plurality of programs to each of a plurality of individual users within the multiple dwelling facility (16)

10 via the multiple dwelling unit network (14) depending on whether

each of the plurality of individual users has met at least one predetermined condition.

9. The method set forth in claim 8, comprising the act of providing a pay per view video program as at least one of the plurality of programs.

15 10. The method set forth in claim 8, comprising the act of providing a premium video channel as at least one of the plurality of programs.

20 11. The method set forth in claim 8, wherein the at least one predetermined condition comprises selecting at least one of the plurality of programs for display using an on-screen programming guide.

25 12. The method set forth in claim 8, comprising the act of blocking access by at least one of the plurality of individual users to the specific one of the plurality of programs until the at least one of the predetermined users has met the at least one predetermined condition.

30 13. The method set forth in claim 8, comprising the act of providing an on screen display in place of at least one of the plurality of programs.

35 14. A system (10) for providing data in a multiple dwelling facility (16), the system (10) comprising:

means for receiving a data stream that comprises a plurality of programs;
and

means for providing at least a subset of the plurality of programs to individual users in the multiple dwelling facility (16).

15. The system (10) set forth in claim 14, wherein the means for receiving the data stream is adapted to offer at least one of the plurality of programs to individual users in the multiple dwelling facility (16) at either a first price or a second price.

5

16. The system (10) set forth in claim 14, wherein the means for providing at least a subset of the plurality of programs to individual users in the multiple dwelling facility (16) comprises a switch (36) that distributes the at least a subset of the plurality of programs to users in individual dwelling units within the

10 multiple dwelling facility (16).

17. The system (10) set forth in claim 14, wherein the means for providing at least a subset of the plurality of programs to individual users in the multiple

15 dwelling facility (16) comprises a set top box in each of the individual dwelling units within the multiple dwelling facility (16), each of the set top boxes being adapted to block a specific program or permit access to the specific program depending on whether a user has met at least one predetermined condition.

20 18. The system (10) set forth in claim 14, wherein at least one of the plurality of programs comprises a premium video channel.

19. The system (10) set forth in claim 14, wherein at least one of the plurality of programs comprises a pay per view video program.

25 20. The system (10) set forth in claim 14, wherein the means for receiving a data stream is configured to interface with a billing system that is configured to create a billing record for each of a plurality of users in the multiple dwelling facility (16).

30

BEST AVAILABLE COPY